

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /100 W
-----126400 191726Z /64

R 171555Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0500
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 15353

DEPT. PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR MO AG OAU MR
SUBJECT: MODERATE AFRICAN STRATEGY ON SAHARA QUESTION

SUMMARY: EGYPTIANS, FRESH FROM PULSE TAKING MISSION IN
MODERATE AFRICAN STATES, BELIEVE MODERATES WISH TO AVOID
DISCUSSION OF SAHARA AT OAU KHARTOUM SUMMIT. ADMISSION
OF FAILURE WOULD LEAVE ALGERIANS FREE TO RAISE ISSUE
MORE VEHEMENTLY IN NON-OAU FORA SUCH AS UN OR NAC. END
SUMMARY.

1. MFA AFRICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AHMED SIDQI, WHO HAS
JUST RETURNED FROM A NINE NATION AFRICAN SWING WITH MFA
MINSTATE BOUTROS GHALI, INFORMED EMBOFFS JUNE 19
THAT AFRICAN MODERATES' STRATEGY IS TO KEEP SAHARA QUES-
TION OFF AGENDA FOR OAU KHARTOUM SUMMIT. MODERATES,
INCLUDING EGYPTIANS, BELIEVE ALGERIANS MANEUVERING TO
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PLACE SAHARA QUESTION ON AGENDA TO FORCE CONCLUSION,
AFTER PROTRACTED DEBATE, THAT OAU INCAPABLE OF HANDLING
ISSUE. THIS WOULD ALLOW ALGERIANS TO RAISE SAHARA
QUESTION AT OTHER FORA, SUCH AS UN AND NAC, PUTTING UN-
DESIRED PRESSURE ON MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA.

2. MODERATE STRATEGY IS THUS TO KEEP SAHARA QUESTION

BOTTLED UP IN OAU, WITHOUT ADMISSION OF FAILURE TO RESOLVE
ISSUE. PREPARATIONS FOR EVENTUAL EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT
COULD GO FORWARD. ONE WAY TO AVOID WRANGLING OVER SAHARA
ISSUE AT KHARTOUM, IN MODERATE VIEW, WOULD BE TO PROPOSE
"COMMITTEE OF WISE MEN" TO PREPARE FOR EXTRAORDINARY
SUMMIT. WHILE THIS NOT PARTICULARLY NEW IDEA, AND HAS
EVEN BEEN RAISED BY SIDQI IN PAST, IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION
FOR MODERATES IS TO AVOID DECLARATION OF OAU INABILITY TO.
HANDLE SAHARA AT KHARTOUM. EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO OAU COLLECTIVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO15353
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780255-0479
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780648/aaaabpad.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0f18c486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2309541
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MODERATE AFRICAN STRATEGY ON SAHARA QUESTION SUMMARY: EGYPTIANS, FRESH FROM PULSE TAKING MISSION IN MODERATE AFRICAN STATES,BELIEVE MODERATES WISH TO
TAGS: PEPR, MO, AG, MR, EG, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f18c486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014